

April 16, 2009

Meeting held at the Columbia Library

Question: How many of you are aware of the neighborhood plan?

- 3 out of 12 participants aware of plan

Question: What makes your neighborhood a place you have chosen to live, work and shop?

- Corner stores like Viet Wah, it is good to invest in neighborhood businesses
- When plans were being put together, the African American community was not aware of South and Southeast neighborhood plans – we didn't live here at the time
- Looking for an overview of neighborhood plans.
- Family has business in neighborhood – family is aging, not wanting to come out at night for meetings.
- Some people feel safer during the day – day format meetings are preferable
- Concern about gang activity – 45th and Webster
- No traffic zone – will that work? Only if properly watched.
- Concern about elderly
- Here at the meeting out of curiosity
- Lack of communication among neighbors
- Choose neighborhood because of a variety of people, well kept homes, but people aren't talking to each other.
- Gangs are an issue
- Churches – 24th and Jackson, ministry in Holly, times have changed, can't just knock on the door and assume an English speaker will answer. Diverse community – we need to minister differently.
- Wonder how churches can help to bring cohesiveness.
- Last 5 years, things have really changed, neighborhood has gone downhill.
- Many nationalities on block 5-6 families living in one house. Some discomfort with degree of diversity
- Keep up homes differently (or don't keep up homes)
- Cultural differences
- Pit bulls – concern about safety
- Whole front yard used for parking
- Feel like other neighbors want to push us out.
- Moved here, looking for where the colored folks live. We talk to our neighbors. House used to be a drug house. Neighbors got together turned vacant lot into a P-Patch
- Most diverse zip code in the world, certainly is us.
- Would not move.
- Upper part of Rainier beach. Fall 2007 saw a lot of gun activity, graffiti, tagged, houses, mobilized neighbors, created a joint block watch – neighborhood wide block watch.
- Worked with City to clean up park, occupy & program park. Group is 1 year old. Just this week, saw graffiti come back

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- Increase in guns and youth violence & activity in this area. Don't want to feel imprisoned in own house
- 1974 moved here because it is midpoint between Everett & Tacoma – the neighborhood is not as aesthetically pleasing as it used to be.
- Broken into 6 times, the last time when house was occupied. Told to have a dog and also not to live alone. Don't know as many neighbors.
- Brighton elementary – graffiti, tagged play area – if you keep the graffiti up, they will come back, and if you clean it up, it shows you will protect it.
- Property values – people can't afford to live in their own houses.
- New development without infrastructure is a concern
- More accidents, bike lanes not enough room.
- Police officer helping w/ traffic
- Accident @ Othello – traffic backup. No notification indicating detours or restricted circulation. In your own neighborhood, you don't know where you can drive, restricted access, shut off from alternative routes. Only sign is police car blocking lane.
- CONCERN AND FEAR WHAT IS GOING ON IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD.
- CONCERN ABOUT PAYING FOR PARKING PERMIT.
- BRIGHTON – 45TH AND HOLLY STREET SIGNAGE IS CONFUSING. Too many “only” signs (right turn only, left turn only) can only go only for so long, restricted turning movements because of rail.
- Concern about how RPZs will work for employees, parents
- Only allow 3 cars on property – ticketed, parking enforcements not consistent.
- HB1490
- How about people who live 2 miles from light rail – no parking and no bus connections to rail.
- Metro bus routes numbers 8, 43, and 48 will change in response to light rail
- Consider alternative parking protections for residents, employees and businesses.
- Transportation must be provided to viable employment centers
- Power of neighborhood plan – tell City how you want to maintain quality of life.
- Awful lot of overhead wires – low – if wires fall in storm – dangerous.
- 38th and Orcas, Dearborn no crosswalks. – top of hill down – people drive fast, no sidewalks, no lighting, 2 signs for school zone – no speed bumps, no blinking lights for school.

Question: How many people plan to take l. rail?

- ½ the 1st day
- A lot of same questions and comments around planning for light rail. Some comments and issues – not a lot has changed. Concerns were not listened to
- Why people don't come to meetings anymore – a lot of talk, no change, why bother?
- Sound Alliance – collaboration within city brings churches, community together
- Done with Mayor Giuliani in New York City

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- Frustrated at these meetings.
- African Americans were not part of the plans in the 1st place. We were on the outside looking in and we are now. We have not come together as a community. All we are doing is talking about someone else's plan. Stop being reactionary, be proactive – talk about 5/10 year plan for our community.
- Will this turn into an action team, if so, sign me up.

Question: What do you want out of this process?

- Response to gang violence and youth violence – preventable not punitive – address African American native born male population – Black Community Center
- ****Services, educational services, specifically oriented youth (Central District example of youth led – April 18 – slamfest – youth promoting self to community.
- Want current Mayor to leave – he is business friendly not neighborhood friendly.
- Law enforcement should live in the community
- Henderson (School) – status of corner – children hanging out block of Cloverdale across from school drug and gang presence.
- Putting a new station and system in but violence is still there, it has not gone away.
- Taking care of one side of neighborhood but not another.
- Gang violence – Rainier Community Center has an open gym 8-12 – late night open-Saturday nights – gang members are inside and just playing – only two places in neighborhood where that is an option
- African American Academy
- Campaign – raise the bar in our community
- You cannot make a decision if you are not at the table
- Community Councils
- What can be tweaked, what can't be tweaked?
- Clean up activities of teens on Rainier, Cloverdale and Henderson
- Ask them what will take to clean up their community
- Othello Park drug activity – unsafe, unsafe, unsafe
- Activities for youth that include youth in the planning
- Collaboration between schools and city so city can supplement activities for youth
- Need more activities that are not athletic, activities that lead to skill development.
- Less wires hanging everywhere